

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 BIB-01 /072 W

----- 063852

R 080930Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8061

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XH, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PARTICIPATION IN ECPC

REF: (A) STATE 105128; (B) BELGRADE 2214

1. BY COINCIDENCE, DCM HAD ARRANGED CALL ON YUGOSLAV DCM RODIC MAY 7, AND EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE (EPCP) WAS AMONG FIRST TOPICS RODIC BROUGHT UP. WHAT HE SAID CERTAINLY SUPPORTS BELGRADE'S STATEMENT (REFTEL B) THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR CONCLUDING THAT YUGOSLAVES HAVE MADE A FINAL DECISION WHETHER TO ATTEND ECPC OR NOT.

2. WHEN DCM ASKED ABOUT BIJEDIC VISIT TO USSR, RODIC SAID MOST OF TALKS WERE ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS, AND CENTRAL POINT BIJEDIC WAS MAKING WAS THAT POLITICAL RELATIONS HAD TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY GOOD ECONOMIC RELATIONS. RODIC AS MUCH AS SAID THAT REAL PROBLEM WAS SOVIET
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DETERMINATION -- BASED ON REALITIES OF THE PAST, NOT OF

THE PRESENT -- TO EXERT HEGEMONY OVER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE. HE SAID IT WAS STILL NOT CLEAR WHAT SOVIET ATTITUDE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE, BUT PROBLEMS WERE FAR FROM RESOLVED.

3. THIS LED RODIC TO DISCUSSION OF CONTROVERSY OVER SOVIET ROLE IN WORLD WAR II. HE LISTED VARIOUS STEPS SOVIETS HAD TAKEN TO MOLLIFY YUGOSLAVS, BUT SAID THE BASIC POINT REMAINED AT ISSUE. THIS WAS NOT HISTORY PER SE, BUT THE USE OF THE PAST SO AS TO JUSTIFY SOVIET PREDOMINANCE IN THE PRESENT AND FUTURE. THIS WAS WHAT YUGOSLAVIA CONTINUED TO STRUGGLE AGAINST.

4. THIS IN TURN LED TO TALK ABOUT ECPC. RODIC BROUGHT IT UP AND SAID SOME EXTREMELY WEIGHTY QUESTIONS WERE AT ISSUE, PARTICULARLY (A) THE NATURE OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT, WHETHER BINDING OR NOT, (B) THE WAY DECISIONS WERE TAKEN, UNANIMOUSLY OR NOT, (C) WHETHER OTHER PARTIES WERE SUBJECT TO ATTACK ("IF WE ATTACK THE CHINESE TODAY, THEY MAY ATTACK THE YUGOSLAVS TOMORROW"), AND (D) WHETHER TO HAVE A WORLD CP CONGRESS, WHICH YUGOSLAVIA OPPOSES. RODIC SAID YUGOSLAVIA WAS ATHWART SOVIET POLICY IN EACH OF THESE, AND DID NOT INTEND TO YIELD. HE SAID THE YUGOSLAVS HAD GOT GOOD SUPPORT FROM CPS OF ITALY, BELGIUM, UK, RUMANIA AND OTHERS (ASKED IF RUMANIA WAS STAUNCH IN THE PARTY COUNSELS, RODIC SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION RUMANIANS HAD BEEN VERY TOUGH IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR POSITIONS SO FAR); HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS WERE PUSHING HARD, AND IT WAS STILL A QUESTION WHETHER LCY WOULD TAKE PART IN ECPC OR NOT.

5. HERE DCM BROUGHT UP DODER ARTICLE. RODIC SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD OF ARTICLE, BUT DOUBTED ITS VALIDITY, BECAUSE HE DID NOT THINK FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN. RODIC AND DCM (BOTH OF WHOM KNOW DODER PERSONALLY) THOUGHT IT WAS A CASE OF DODER MAKING A "MIGHT NOT" INTO A "WILL NOT." (SEE SEPTTEL ON RODIC'S VIEWS ON CZECHOSLOVAK SCENE.
PERRY

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